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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

9 FEB 1993

Room 222
DOCKETS
IN REPLY REFER TO
7330-7/170043

Honorable Al McCandless House of Representatives 2422 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McCandless:

This is in reply to your letter of January 27, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituents, George and Chris Ritter, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the <u>Notice</u> reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the <u>Notice</u>, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the <u>Notice</u> that describes the numerous proposals.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituents' concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the <u>Notice</u> are due February 26, 1993, and Reply Comments are due April 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued near the end of 1993. We urge your constituents to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sixerely, Develue St. Laker

Ralph A. Haller

Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:
Notice
Discussion paper
Incoming correspondence

Congressional

DUR: 2-9-93

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.

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The attached communication is submitted for your consideration, and to ask that the request made therein be complied with. if possible.

If you will advise me of your action in this matter and have the letter returned to me with your reply, I will appreciate it.

REP. AL Mc CANOLESS 2422 R.H.O.B. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 ADN: MIKE

Very Truly yours,

M.C.

George J. Ritter

Associates

Architects A.I.A.

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January 11, 1993



The Honorable Al McCandless, Congressman 37th Congressional District 74075 El Paseo Palm Desert, CA 92260

Re: Federal Communications Commissions Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM-PR Docket 92-235)

Dear Congressman McCandless:

My son and I are active in radio control modeling and wish to continue to be able to pursue this advocation. The new proposed rules in which hearings will soon begin by the Federal Communications Commission addresses frequency uses in another service, Part 88 of the Code of Federal Regulations, but it would also effect Part 95 where radio control modeling frequency uses are regulated, 72 MHz and 75MHz frequencies. These new rules insert two new frequency users between those assigned for modeling and commercial use. These new users are designated as "mobile;" and therefore, could be operating in close proximity to our flying fields, car tracks, and water courses. These frequencies are so close to curs that we will not be free from interference at this frequency spacing. The technical specifications suggest that other concerns may also exist as well.

There are several hundred thousand active radio control modelers pursuing their hobby using current radio control equipment which would create a financial hardship if it were to become unusable or obsolete due to the new frequency users. Further, interference by these new frequencies users would create a safety hazard in the operation of our radio controlled cars, boats, and aircraft.

We request that you use your office to modify these proposed regulations so that the existing frequency separation is maintained between radio control model usage and commercial users and that no new frequency users be inserted between these existing frequency users.

Sincerely,

George J. Ritter

Chris Ritter

G.TR:ks



Michael J. Riith Legislative Correspondent

Al McCandless Member of Congress 37th District, California U. S. House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515 (202) 225-5330